SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
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12¢
BATMAN
MAR.
NO. 179
SHEEESH!
The RIDDLER's BACK AGAIN--WITH A NEW BATCH OF ZANY PUZZLES TO DRIVE BATMAN and ROBIN BATTY!
? HOW CAN ONE GET INTO A LOCKED CEMETERY AT NIGHT?
? CAN YOU TELL WHAT NATIONALITY NAPOLEON'S PARENTS WERE?
? WHEN DOES TEN ADDED TO TEN EQUAL TEN?
10
+10
10
? WHY IS THE LETTER "A" LIKE A HONEYSUCKLE?
A

Do YOU Make Life Hard for Yourself?

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO GO ON YOUR BABY-SITTING JOB, BETSY. AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T STRAIGHTENED UP YOUR ROOM. I DON'T SEE HOW YOU FIND ANYTHING!
DON'T WORRY, MOTHER, I KNOW WHERE EVERYTHING IS!
THAT EVENING...
WE STILL HAVE HALF AN HOUR TILL BEDTIME, BOBBY. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?
LET'S PLAY MY NEW GAME. IT'S UPSTAIRS. COME ON AND I'LL SHOW YOU.
GOODNESS, BOBBY. WHAT A MESS YOUR ROOM IS IN! I DON'T SEE HOW YOU FIND ANYTHING!
DON'T WORRY, BETSY. I KNOW WHERE EVERY-THING IS!
THIRTY MINUTES LATER...
WELL, THAT'S IT, BETSY! I'VE LOOKED EVERY-WHERE... I DON'T KNOW WHERE I PUT IT NOW!
WELL, IT'S BEDTIME ANY-WAY, BOBBY. YOU KNOW I PROMISED YOUR MOTHER YOU'D BE IN BED ON TIME.
GEE WHIZ, BETSY. I WANTED TO PLAY THAT GAME!
WELL, BOBBY, THIS SHOULD BE A LESSON TO YOU. IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA IF YOU'D CLEAN UP YOUR ROOM TO-MORROW, SO YOU CAN FIND THINGS WHEN YOU WANT THEM.
WHAT AM I SAYING! I BETTER START PRACTICING WHAT I PREACH!

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SOMEWHERE IN GOTHAM CITY WAS A DIABOLICAL CRIMINAL WHO HAD COMMITTED THE PERFECT CRIME! THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY BATMAN COULD FORCE THIS HOMICIDAL MASTERMIND INTO THE OPEN TO REVEAL HIS IDENTITY! AND THAT WAS FOR THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE TO BECOME A...
BATMAN
CLAY PIGEON FOR A KILLER!
YOU'LL NOT ONLY NEVER GUESS THE ENDING--BUT NOT EVEN THE BEGINNING OF THIS STARTLING STORY OF SUSPENSE!
BOB KANE

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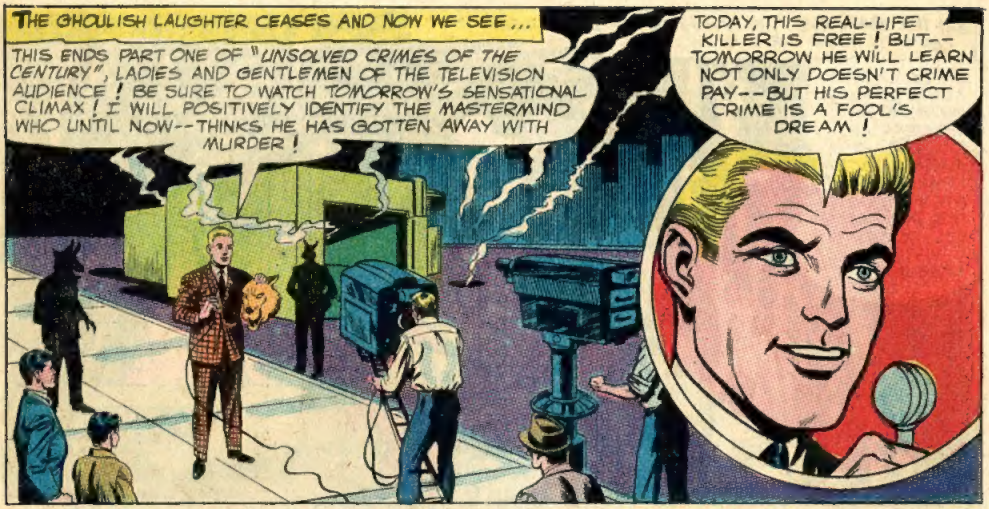
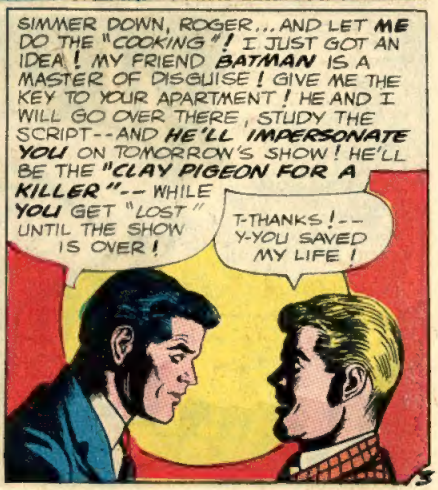
HIS EYES BLAZING WITH VOLCANIC FIRES--A MAN RANTS...
YES! I, VICTOR IAGO--DID WHAT MASTER CRIMINALS HAVE ONLY DREAMED OF--I COMMITTED THE PERFECT CRIME--THE UNSOLVED MURDER!
THE POLICE CATCH COUNTLESS CRIMINALS IN THEIR NET LIKE MISERABLE FISH! BUT--I'M THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY! AND I AM FOREVER BEYOND THEIR REACH!
WHAT A JEST ON THE WORLD! NOT ONLY AM I THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD--BUT I HAVE COMMITTED THE PERFECT CRIME! AND NO ONE CAN MAKE ME PAY FOR IT!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
OUR NIGHTMARISH TALE STARTS WITH BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE, AND DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON, AS ENTHRALLED SPECTATORS TO A VICIOUS "CRIME"...
YOU'LL... NEVER... GET... AWAY... WITH... MURDER...
POW!
POW!
WE THREE WILL NOT ONLY GET AWAY WITH MURDER--BUT THE THREE MILLION BUCKS THEIR ARMORED TRUCK WAS CARRYING! I MASTERMINDED EVERY STEP OF THIS JOB! IT CAN'T FAIL! IT'S AS PERFECT AS A CIRCLE!
HA-HA-HA-HA!

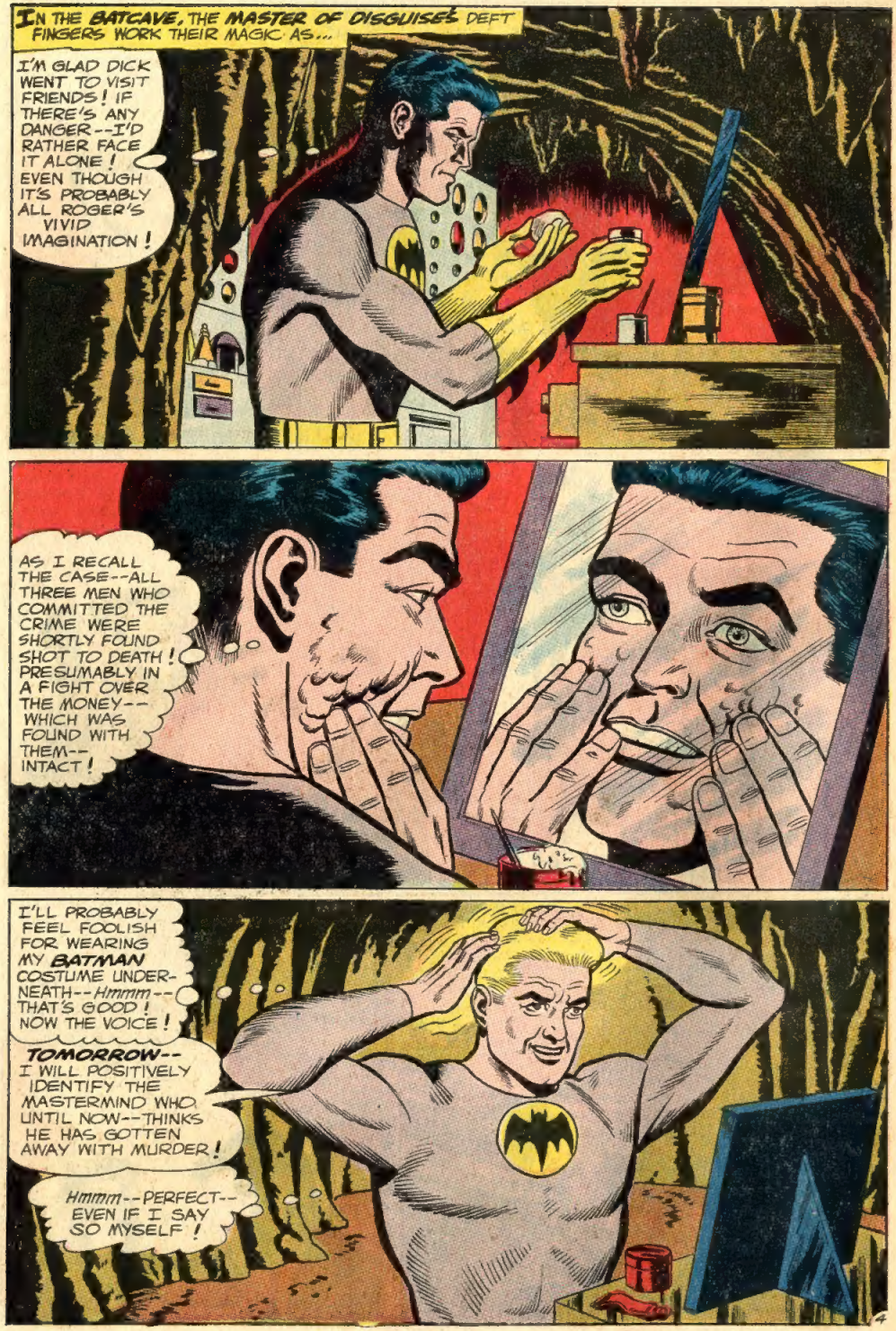

THE GHOULISH LAUGHTER CEASES AND NOW WE SEE...
THIS ENDS PART ONE OF "UNSOLVED CRIMES OF THE CENTURY", LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE TELEVISION AUDIENCE! BE SURE TO WATCH TOMORROW'S SENSATIONAL CLIMAX! I WILL POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE MASTERMIND WHO UNTIL NOW--THINKS HE HAS GOTTEN AWAY WITH MURDER!
TODAY, THIS REAL-LIFE KILLER IS FREE! BUT--TOMORROW HE WILL LEARN NOT ONLY DOESN'T CRIME PAY--BUT HIS PERFECT CRIME IS A FOOL'S DREAM!

UNTIL TOMORROW THEN--THE SECRET OF HIS IDENTITY IS MINE ALONE!...THIS IS ROGER KAY, CREATOR, WRITER, AND ACTOR OF THIS SERIES--SIGNING OFF!

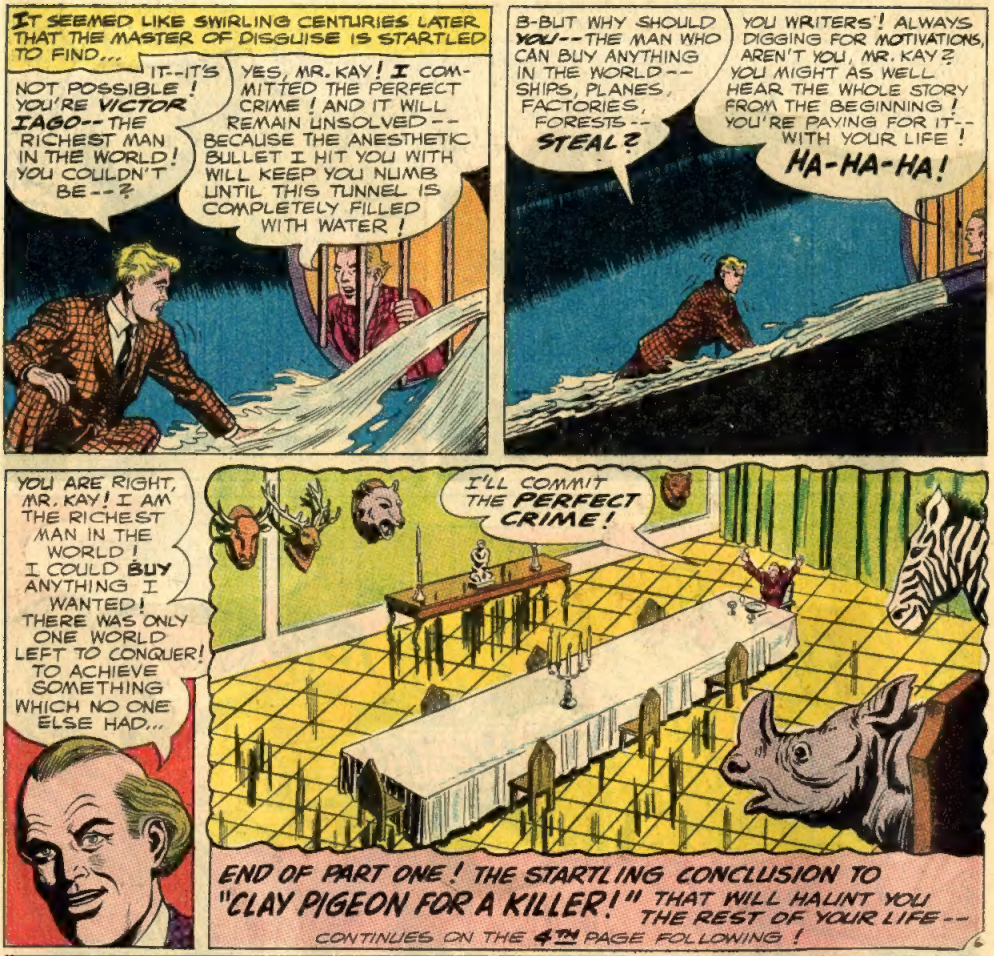
THANKS FOR INVITING US TO SEE YOUR FIRST SHOW, ROGER! YOU REALLY LEFT US HANGING ON THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF!
HOW ABOUT A HINT OF THE IDENTITY OF THE KILLER? I'LL HAVE CHEWED MY FINGERNAILS DOWN TO MY TOES... WITH WONDERING!
JUST TUNE IN TOMORROW DICK, AND YOU AND MILLIONS WILL LEARN THE ANSWER!

BUT, THAT EVENING, AN ASHEN-FACED, TREMBLING ACTOR CALLS AT THE HOME OF THE MILLIONAIRE SPORTSMAN...
BRUCE--I'VE A CONFESSION TO MAKE! I--I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHO THE KILLER IS! AT FIRST--I DREAMED UP THIS WHOLE IDEA TO FORCE HIM OUT IN THE OPEN! NOW--I'M BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT I'VE PLACED MYSELF ON A BULL'S-EYE! H-HE COULD PUT A BULLET THROUGH MY BRAIN WITH A SNIPER'S RIFLE! HE COULD POISON THE WATER I DRINK ON THE SET--THE FOOD! BRUCE--I--I CAN'T GO ON TOMORROW--
I CAN'T--I CAN'T!


SIMMER DOWN, ROGER...AND LET ME DO THE "COOKING"! I JUST GOT AN IDEA! MY FRIEND BATMAN IS A MASTER OF DISGUISE! GIVE ME THE KEY TO YOUR APARTMENT! HE AND I WILL GO OVER THERE, STUDY THE SCRIPT--AND HE'LL IMPERSONATE YOU ON TOMORROW'S SHOW! HE'LL BE THE "CLAY PIGEON FOR A KILLER"--WHILE YOU GET "LOST" UNTIL THE SHOW IS OVER!
T-THANKS!--Y-YOU SAVED MY LIFE!


IN THE BATCAVE, THE MASTER OF DISGUISES DEFT FINGERS WORK THEIR MAGIC AS...
I'M GLAD DICK WENT TO VISIT FRIENDS! IF THERE'S ANY DANGER--I'D RATHER FACE IT ALONE! EVEN THOUGH IT'S PROBABLY ALL ROGER'S VIVID IMAGINATION!
AS I RECALL THE CASE--ALL THREE MEN WHO COMMITTED THE CRIME WERE SHORTLY FOUND SHOT TO DEATH! PRESUMABLY IN A FIGHT OVER THE MONEY--WHICH WAS FOUND WITH THEM--INTACT!
I'LL PROBABLY FEEL FOOLISH FOR WEARING MY BATMAN COSTUME UNDERNEATH--Hmmm--THAT'S GOOD! NOW THE VOICE!
TOMORROW--I WILL POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE MASTERMIND WHO, UNTIL NOW--THINKS HE HAS GOTTEN AWAY WITH MURDER!
Hmmm--PERFECT--EVEN IF I SAY SO MYSELF!

SHORTLY, AS THE ACTOR-DISGUISED BATMAN OPENS THE DOOR TO ROGER KAY'S APARTMENT ...
VERY CLEVER, MR. KAY! LEAVING THE END OF YOUR SCRIPT BLANK--WHERE YOU NAME THE MASTERMIND!
ROGER'S A WAY-OUT GENIUS! HE DID FORCE THE GANG OUT INTO THE OPEN! BUT--WHO WERE THOSE THREE MEN FOUND DEAD WITH THE MONEY?
SO NICE OF YOU TO CALL! LET ME WELCOME YOU PROPERLY!
CLEVER TO THE END, AREN'T YOU, MR. KAY?
FOR A MOMENT, THE SPORTSMAN'S FISTS FLAIL AT THE GUNMEN LIKE RAMRODS...
BOSS!--STOP THIS WILD MAN!
ZOK!
POW!
ONLY AN AMACHOOR WOULD TACKLE THREE GUYS WITH GUNS!
HOW ABOUT A WITTY EXIT LINE FOR YOURSELF, MR. KAY? LIKE: I SHOULD HAVE KEPT MY NOSE OUT OF CRIME--NOW MY LIFE'S NOT WORTH A DIME!
OR: MY IMAGINATION LIT A BONFIRE--WHICH BECAME A FUNERAL PYRE!


IT SEEMED LIKE SWIRLING CENTURIES LATER THAT THE MASTER OF DISGUISE IS STARTLED TO FIND...
IT--IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! YOU'RE VICTOR IAGO--THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD! YOU COULDN'T BE--?
YES, MR. KAY! I COMMITTED THE PERFECT CRIME! AND IT WILL REMAIN UNSOLVED--BECAUSE THE ANESTHETIC BULLET I HIT YOU WITH WILL KEEP YOU NUMB UNTIL THIS TUNNEL IS COMPLETELY FILLED WITH WATER!
B-BUT WHY SHOULD YOU--THE MAN WHO CAN BUY ANYTHING IN THE WORLD--SHIPS, PLANES, FACTORIES, FORESTS--STEAL?
YOU WRITERS! ALWAYS DIGGING FOR MOTIVATIONS, AREN'T YOU, MR. KAY? YOU MIGHT AS WELL HEAR THE WHOLE STORY FROM THE BEGINNING! YOU'RE PAYING FOR IT--WITH YOUR LIFE!
HA-HA-HA!
YOU ARE RIGHT, MR. KAY! I AM THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD! I COULD BUY ANYTHING I WANTED! THERE WAS ONLY ONE WORLD LEFT TO CONQUER! TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING WHICH NO ONE ELSE HAD...
I'LL COMMIT THE PERFECT CRIME!
END OF PART ONE! THE STARTLING CONCLUSION TO "CLAY PIGEON FOR A KILLER!" THAT WILL HAUNT YOU THE REST OF YOUR LIFE--
CONTINUES ON THE 4TH PAGE FOLLOWING!

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
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9. Paragraphs 7 and 8 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner. Names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders of a corporation which itself is a stockholder or holder of bonds, mortgages or other securities of the publishing corporation have been included in paragraphs 7 and 8 when the interests of such individuals are equivalent to 1 percent or more of the total amount of the stock or securities of the publishing corporation.

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
Irwin Donenfeld, Business Manager.

CASEY
THE COP
CASEY, SOME WOMAN CALLED AND SAID SOMETHING ABOUT BURGLARS AT HER HOUSE. HERE'S HER ADDRESS - RUSH OVER!
I'D BETTER LOOK ALL AROUND THE HOUSE BEFORE I GO IN!
HOW DO YOU DO, MA'AM. WE GOT YOUR CALL!
YES, YES, COME RIGHT IN!
PULL UP A CHAIR AND KEEP ME COMPANY. I GET SO SCARED WHEN I WATCH THIS MYSTERY PROGRAM ALL ALONE!
END.

LOOK-- UP IN THE SKY!

It's a SUPER-CAT... a SUPER-HORSE... and SUPERGIRL!

At Last--

BY POPULAR DEMAND FROM THOUSANDS OF HER FANS, THE MIGHTY

MAID of STEEL

STARS IN HER OWN

80 PAGE GIANT--

WITH HER PETS,

STREAKY and COMET,

(AND, OF COURSE, HER COUSIN,

SUPERMAN!)

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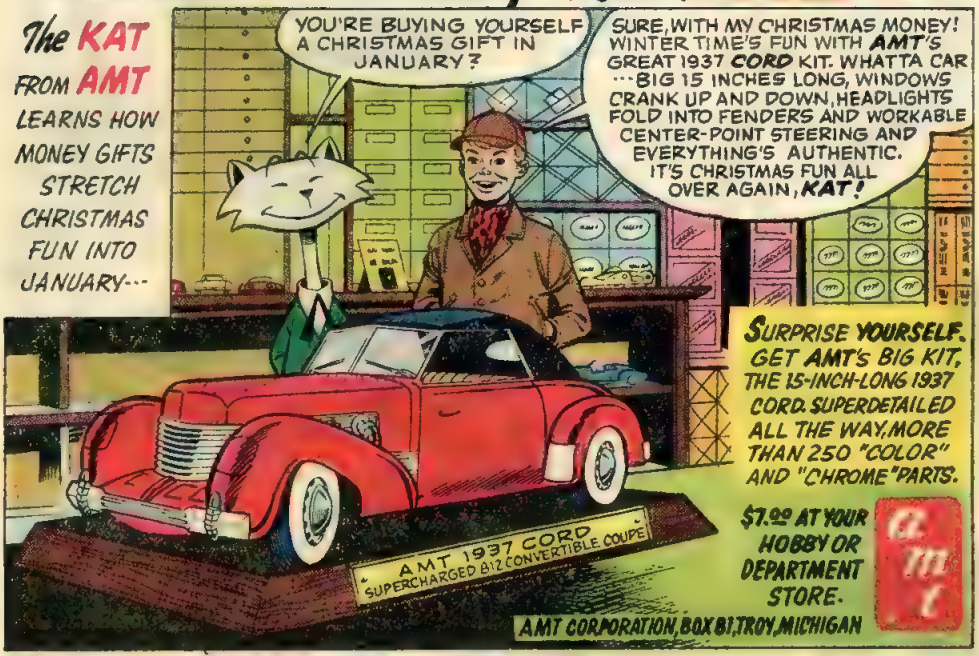
Plus A SURPRISE FEATURE...

"SUPERGIRL'S FORTRESS of SOLITUDE!"

ON SALE JAN. 18th

Christmas in January from AMT!

The KAT FROM AMT LEARNS HOW MONEY GIFTS STRETCH CHRISTMAS FUN INTO JANUARY---


YOU'RE BUYING YOURSELF A CHRISTMAS GIFT IN JANUARY?
SURE, WITH MY CHRISTMAS MONEY! WINTER TIME'S FUN WITH AMT'S GREAT 1937 CORD KIT. WHATTA CAR ···BIG 15 INCHES LONG, WINDOWS CRANK UP AND DOWN, HEADLIGHTS FOLD INTO FENDERS AND WORKABLE CENTER-POINT STEERING AND EVERYTHING'S AUTHENTIC. IT'S CHRISTMAS FUN ALL OVER AGAIN, KAT!
AMT 1937 CORD SUPERCHARGED 8:12 CONVERTIBLE COUPE

SURPRISE YOURSELF. GET AMT'S BIG KIT, THE 15-INCH-LONG 1937 CORD. SUPERDETAILED ALL THE WAY, MORE THAN 250 "COLOR" AND "CHROME" PARTS.

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SECOND SMASH ISSUE

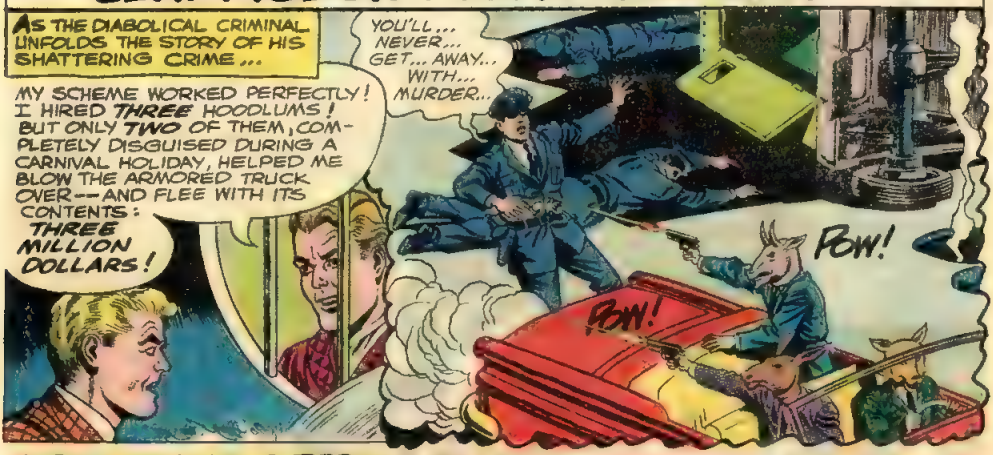
SHOWCASING

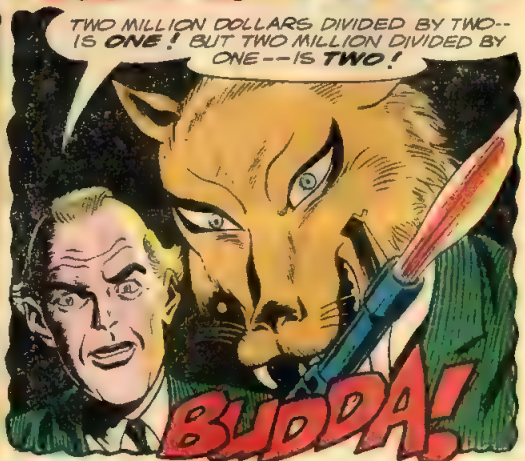
AN EARTH-SHATTERING DUEL BETWEEN The SPECTRE-- THE MOST FABULOUS HERO OF THE GOLDEN AGE OF COMICS and SHATHAN-- THE ULTIMATE VILLAIN OF ALL TIME-AND-SPACE!

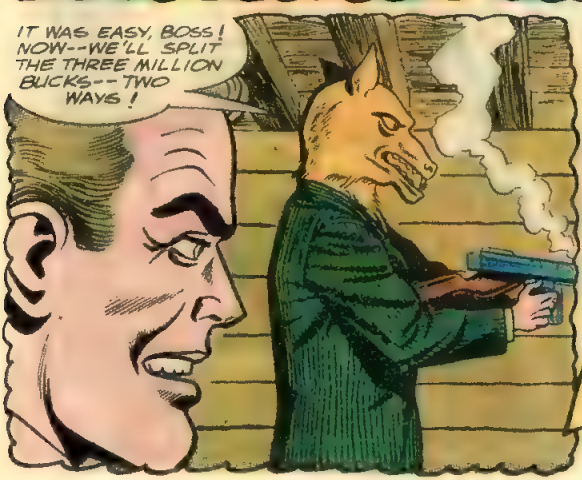
ON SALE JAN. 25th

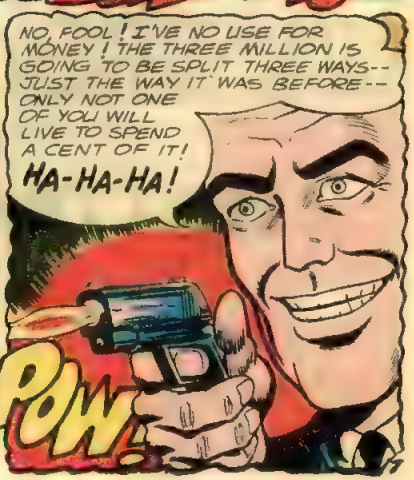
PART TWO THE MOST HAUNTING CONCLUSION YOU WILL EVER SHUDDER AT--OF BATMAN ACTING AS--

"CLAY PIGEON FOR A KILLER!"

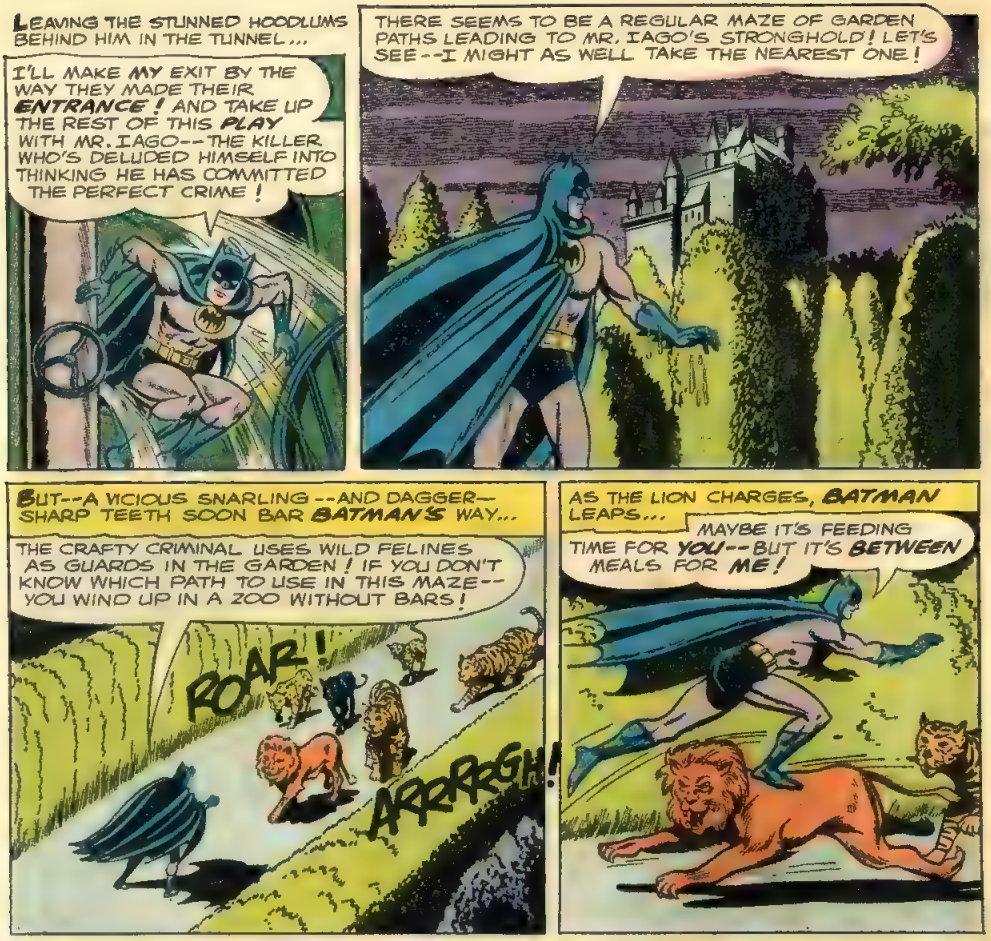

AS THE DIABOLICAL CRIMINAL UNFOLDS THE STORY OF HIS SHATTERING CRIME...
MY SCHEME WORKED PERFECTLY! I HIRED THREE HOODLUMS! BUT ONLY TWO OF THEM, COMPLETELY DISGUISED DURING A CARNIVAL HOLIDAY, HELPED ME BLOW THE ARMORED TRUCK OVER--AND FLEE WITH ITS CONTENTS: THREE MILLION DOLLARS!
YOU'LL... NEVER... GET... AWAY... WITH... MURDER...
POW!
BOM!






NO, FOOL! I'VE NO USE FOR MONEY! THE THREE MILLION IS GOING TO BE SPLIT THREE WAYS--JUST THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE--ONLY NOT ONE OF YOU WILL LIVE TO SPEND A CENT OF IT!
HA-HA-HA!
POW!

"NATURALLY--WHEN THE AUTHORITIES CAME--THE EVIDENCE WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEIR EYES..."
THE DYING GUARD'S DESCRIPTION CERTAINLY FITS THEM!
LOOKS LIKE THEY FOUGHT OVER THE MONEY AND STARTED BLASTING AWAY!
THE CASE IS CLOSED!
"YES--THE CASE WAS CLOSED..."
THREE MEN COMMITTED ROBBERY AND MURDER! THREE MEN WERE FOUND DEAD WITH THE LOOT INTACT! THE CASE WAS CLOSED! AND I, VICTOR IAGO, HAVE COMMITTED THE PERFECT CRIME!
HA-HA-HA!
AS THE TRIUMPHANT CRIMINAL FINISHES HIS STARTLING TALE...
YOU AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW I AM BEHIND THE PERFECT CRIME, MR. KAY! AND MINUTES FROM NOW, WHEN THE TUNNEL IS COMPLETELY FLOODED WITH WATER--THAT SECRET WILL BE MINE ALONE! HA-HA-HA!! FAREWELL!
WITH WATER SWIRLING AROUND HIM...THE TRAPPED MASTER OF DISGUISE CHANGES INTO BATMAN...
SHORTLY...
IAGO ISN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES! HE SENT TWO OF OF HIS HENCHMEN, WITH FROGMEN GEAR--TO MAKE SURE ROGER KAY IS A DROWNED RAT BY NOW! I'LL PLAY DEAD! THE TRICK IS SO OLD--IT MIGHT WORK!
THEY'RE JUST FINDING OUT THAT THERE'S A VERY LIVE BATMAN HERE INSTEAD!


LEAVING THE STUNNED HOODLUMS BEHIND HIM IN THE TUNNEL...
I'LL MAKE MY EXIT BY THE WAY THEY MADE THEIR ENTRANCE! AND TAKE UP THE REST OF THIS PLAY WITH MR. IAGO--THE KILLER WHO'S DELUDED HIMSELF INTO THINKING HE HAS COMMITTED THE PERFECT CRIME!
THERE SEEMS TO BE A REGULAR MAZE OF GARDEN PATHS LEADING TO MR. IAGO'S STRONGHOLD! LET'S SEE--I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE THE NEAREST ONE!
BUT--A VICIOUS SNARLING--AND DAGGER-SHARP TEETH SOON BAR BATMAN'S WAY...
THE CRAFTY CRIMINAL USES WILD FELINES AS GUARDS IN THE GARDEN! IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHICH PATH TO USE IN THIS MAZE--YOU WIND UP IN A ZOO WITHOUT BARS!
ROAR!
ARRRRGH!
AS THE LION CHARGES, BATMAN LEAPS...
MAYBE IT'S FEEDING TIME FOR YOU--BUT IT'S BETWEEN MEALS FOR ME!
WITH FANTASTIC AGILITY, THE MASTER ACROBAT SOMERSAULTS FROM ONE FELINE KILLER TO ANOTHER ... UNTIL ...
EXCUSE MY FEET!
SORRY I CAN'T STOP TO PLAY WITH YOU, TABBY!
DON'T CALL ME--I'LL CALL YOU--IT'S HARD TO DIAL WITH CLAWS!

AS THE MASKED MANHUNTER LANDS IN ANOTHER MAZE...
IT'S BATMAN! THE BOSS'LL ADD HIS HEAD TO HIS BIRD COLLECTION!
Tsk!--Tsk! IF YOU WEREN'T A SCHOOL DROPOUT--YOU'D KNOW THAT A BAT BELONGS TO THE MAMMAL FAMILY!
SHADDUP! STICK YOUR HANDS UP--AND GET GOING!
SHOT-GUNS AT HIS BACK, HE IS HERDED TO THE MASTER CRIMINAL...
BATMAN--?! HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE PICTURE?
SUDDENLY YANKING THE SHOTGUNS UPWARD AT THE MASSIVE CHANDELIER, BATMAN CAUSES THE STARTLED GUNMEN TO FIRE--WHILE HE REPLIES WITH BREATHLESS DARING...
DIDN'T YOU READ THE "SCRIPT", MASTERMIND? I SWITCHED PLACES WITH ROGER KAY!
BLAM!
BLAM!
AS THE SHOTGUN-RIDDLED CHANDELIER HURTLES DOWNWARD LIKE CRYSTAL SHRAPNEL...
BACK UP--I NEED ROOM!
THE ONLY "ROOM" YOU'RE GOING TO GET-IS A COFFIN!
UGNHH!
CRASH!
I'LL GIVE A MILLION DOLLARS TO THE FIRST MAN WHO RIDDLES THIS CLAY PIGEON!
FIRE!--FIRE!--
WITH SO MANY GUNS AIMED AT ME--YOU'D BETTER GET AN UMPIRE TO JUDGE THE HITS AND MISSES!
THE CAPED CRUSADER SWEEPS UP THE HUGE DINING TABLE JUST AS...
LOOKS LIKE THEY ALL STRUCK OUT, MASTERMIND!
FOOLS! DON'T JUST STAND THERE--CIRCLE AROUND HIM! SMOTHER HIM WITH LEAD!
POW!
POW!
POW!
10

USING THE HUGE TABLE AS A BATTERING RAM, BATMAN HURTLES FORWARD...
PARDON ME--IF I DON'T WANT TO BE THE PICKLE IN THE MIDDLE!
WITH THE UNCANNY AGILITY OF THE WINGED CREATURE AFTER WHOM HE HAD BEEN NAMED, BATMAN WHIRLS ON THE REMAINING GUNMEN AND...
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE WON'T BE ANY AUDIENCE LEFT TO WATCH THE FINISH OF THIS PLAY! THE END OF A PERFECT CRIME!
SOK!
POW!
RELENTLESSLY, THE MASTER MANHUNTER PURSUES THE KILLER FROM ROOM TO ROOM OF HIS NOW SILENT STRONGHOLD...
YOU HAVE FAILED--AS EVERY CRIMINAL HAS FAILED--TO COMMIT A PERFECT CRIME!
NO--NO! ONCE I KILL YOU--NO ONE WILL KNOW I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARMORED TRUCK ROBBERY AND MURDERS!
BAM!
YOUR MAD DREAM OF COMMITTING A PERFECT CRIME IS OVER NOW!
IT'S YOU WHO ARE MAD--MAKING BELIEVE I DID NOT GET AWAY WITH MURDER!
BAM!
IT'S ALL OVER! NOW YOU WILL LEARN THAT CRIME DOES NOT PAY!
YOU'RE ONLY SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE JEALOUS OF MY GREAT SUCCESS! I WON'T LISTEN TO YOU--I WON'T LISTEN--I WON'T LISTEN!
CLICK! CLICK!

AND SO, IN AN INSTITUTION FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE, A MAN RANTS AND RAVES...

YES! I, VICTOR IAGO--HAVE COMMITTED THE PERFECT CRIME--THE UNSOLVED MURDER! STOP STARING AT ME--YOU FOOL! I KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE! YOU PRETEND TO BE ROGER KAY--BUT I HAVE PROOF THAT YOU ARE BATMAN! THE ONLY WAY BATMAN COULD HAVE CHANGED PLACES WITH YOU AND SAVED YOUR LIFE--IS BECAUSE YOU ARE BOTH THE SAME MAN! I'LL SMASH YOUR CRIME-FIGHTING CAREER! I'LL SHOUT YOUR SECRET TO THE WORLD! ROGER KAY AND BATMAN ARE THE SAME--!

SUDDENLY, STEPPING NEXT TO ROGER KAY..

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO EXPLAIN SEEING ROGER KAY AND ME TOGETHER AT THE SAME TIME--IN THE SAME PLACE!

IT'S TRUE! THEY COULDN'T BE THE SAME MAN--IF I SEE THEM BOTH TOGETHER! OR AM I IMAGINING IT? AM I IMAGINING THE WHOLE THING? DID I IMAGINE I COULD DO WHAT CRIMINALS HAVE DREAMED OF--COMMIT THE PERFECT CRIME?

PERFECT CRIMINAL?--HA-HA-HA-HA!--I'M A PERFECT FOOL!--HA-HA-HA!!

THE END.

BE SURE TO WATCH BATMAN ON THE ABC TELEVISION NETWORK! CHECK YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS FOR TELECAST TIME!

12

GOODBYE!

ME, BIZARRO-SUPERMAN No.1, WARN YOU NOT TO BUY MARCH ISSUE OF WORLD'S FINEST!

IT STAR HANDSOME ME AND INTRODUCE MY NEW PARTNER, BIZARRO-BATMAN! IT TELL HOW US MAKE JOKER MEMBER OF F.B.I. (FEDERATION of BIZARRO IDIOTS!)

IT GOT ACTION, THRILLS, SPECTACLE, AND--WORST OF ALL--LOADS of LAUGHS! SO STEER CLEAR OF IT, OR YOU MIGHT GET ENTERTAINED!

HELLO!

DC
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SUPERMAN NATIONAL COMICS
DC

ON SALE JAN. 25th

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor: I've read and enjoyed the adventures of *Batman* and *Robin* for a considerable time. I've read of seemingly impossible things happening to our heroes, and have always managed to accept your natural explanation of them. But I found the November *Batman* a bit too much.

Maybe you *can* create television-like images and cause them to move about (as in "The Decline and Fall of Batman"). But when you start having images turn solid and deal knockout blows to humans, then return to an intangible state, I can't swallow it. Please, let's have more believable adventures for *Batman* and *Robin*.—*Deane Morrison, Northville, N.Y.*

(Judging from the lead-off letter, you'd hardly think that the November's "Decline and Fall of Batman" was anything but a *swinger!* Yet, in a sense it was—like a pendulum—swinging from jeers to cheers. That's the way the mail came in (no halfway measures) and that's the way this department will swing—from bad to good and back again—till we run out of space. —*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: The November *Batman* was terrific! The cover was perfect! The story was the best I've ever read! The artwork was beautiful! To sum it up, it was sensational! It was also the first time that I have seen *Batman* beaten in a fight. But at least he fought back to the best of his ability (which is to be expected of him). I knew in the end that *Batman* would win, but meanwhile I couldn't figure out *Batman's* repeated urging to *Robin* to "keep fighting and we'll win!" The answer was tricky and completely satisfying when it was revealed at the end. —*Martin Wilson, Great Falls, Md.*

* * *

Dear Editor: *Batman* hasn't exactly gained for himself the reputation of being a push-over after all these years he has fought crime, so when I saw the dilapidated *Cowled Crusader* on the cover of the November *Batman* I expected something radically different from what I went on to read. "The Decline and Fall of Batman," though gifted with a catchy monicker, fell flat on its face.

An unoriginal piece, nothing new since heroes have been running into trouble with more powerful duplicates or evil counterparts for years now, a villain who lacked any color or uniqueness in comparison to his fellow *Batman* criminals, costumed or otherwise, and given too much space in a book-length novel to boot.

One thing I've learned though, is that when a story may have failed in its purpose, the art is exceptionally fine as was with Bob Kane's pencils and Joe Giella's inks. —*Leonard Tirado, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.*

* * *

Dear Editor: Wow! The November *Batman* was terrific! What a story! It's the best I've read in quite a while. I'm still seeing double after reading the story, but I like it. I liked the way the suspense built up until the next to last page when we found out how *Batman* and *Robin* stopped Eddie Repp—and I do mean stopped! —*Steven Monroe, Alliance, O.*

* * *

Dear Editor: The cover on the November *Batman* was a triumph, a truly memorable piece of work. I naturally expected to see this excellence echoed within the comic. Let it go on record that I didn't see anything even closely approximating it! Story-wise, "The Decline and Fall of Batman" fell lower than anything since the "new look" was introduced. Bob Kane's art dipped a little, too, from his usual great.

It's always easy to say that the issue was a flop, but saying *why* is another matter. First off, the villain of the piece wasn't dynamic in the least sense; his 3-D stooges not very original. Neither, for that matter, was the *B&R* team's method of catching the crook. Dusting the skag with radioactive particles in order to trace the loot is all very scientific, but it has been used many times before and is getting a little mouldy around the edges. Art-wise, Bob Kane did not use his most potent "weapon" as much as he could have: shadowing, in which he excels.

So the issue was a disappointment. I'm not going to use it as an excuse, however, to let fly some crude epithets and vow off *Batman*. I've seen what quality can flit around inside that magazine, and this is one fan who won't write *anything* off because of one poor step in an entire parade. —*Guy H. Lillian III, Walnut Creek, Cal.*

* * *

Dear Editor: The November *Batman* was so good I had to use my last envelope and stamp to tell you so. The plot became a little way out when the ghost images "appeared," yet now I can understand them. *Batman's* plan with the radioactive powder was ingenious and he sure did keep on thinking after he put it on the gems. —*Jim Allen, Chapel Hill, Cal.*

* * *

Dear Editor: In my opinion, "The Decline and Fall of Batman" was frankly an actual decline in the quality of the yarn which I hope you can quickly recover from. —*Robert O'Donnell, Brooklyn, N.Y.*

* * *

Dear Editor: Masterpiece is the ideal word for the November *Batman*. I liked it in every way but one. I prefer to have the reader trying to figure out what's happening along with the hero, instead of having it revealed early in the story. —*Don Baxter, Worthington, Ohio.*

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Perodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

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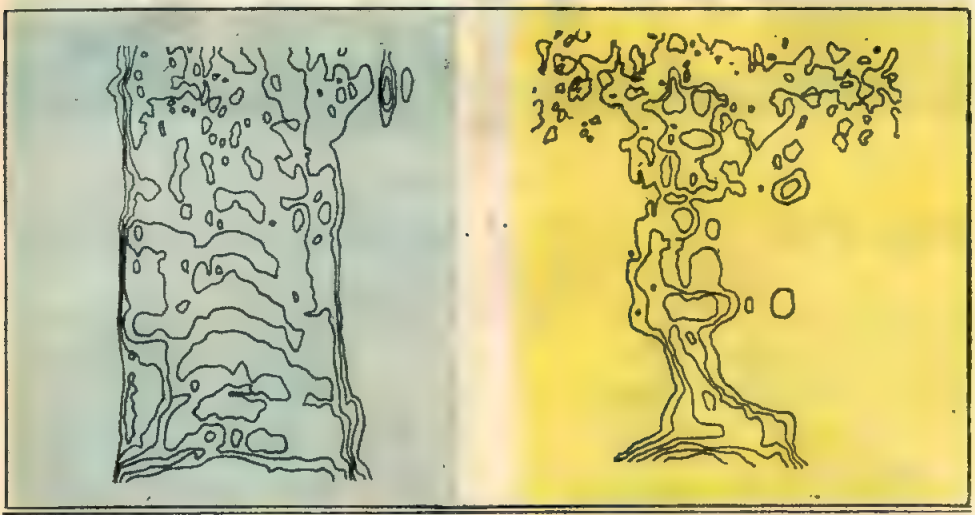


DIRECT CURRENTS

By Popular Demand—the feature you've asked for—a column devoted to previews of coming attractions in the DC line of Dynamic Creations! *Look for DIRECT CURRENTS in each issue of DC's mighty mags!*

OUR ARMY AT WAR—April, No. 166—On sale Feb. 1—Easy Company's SGT. ROCK was finally faced with an order that would make a dead hero out of him—if he obeyed it . . . or a candidate for a firing squad if he refused!

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN—April-May, No. 49—On sale Feb. 1—Meet the new CHALLENGER CORPS! Who are they? What do they do? The answers come with trip-hammer force when the CHALLENGERS use their super-powers to battle "The Tyrant Who Owned the World."

THE ATOM—April-May, No. 24—On sale Feb. 1—In the first issue of THE ATOM, the World's Smallest Super-Hero smashed the schemes of the PLANT MASTER! Now he strikes again, with a plan to turn his very defeat into victory with "The Atom-Destruction of Earth!"

BOB HOPE—April-May, No. 98—On sale Feb. 1—Rev up your engines for a daffy drag, a merry meet, and a riot of a rally! But be careful, or you'll strip your gears laughing at "The Cool Hot Rodder," co-starring Bob and that swingin' teen, Super-Hip.

SUPERMAN—April, No. 185—On sale Feb. 3—At long last, the invulnerable MAN OF STEEL gets an "ACHILLES' HEEL." One part of his body becomes vulnerable to mortal harm—but which part is it? Read this thrill-a-second saga and see if you can guess the answer!

WONDER WOMAN—April, No. 161—On sale Feb. 3—The mighty Amazon brings back the Golden Age thrill by thrill, pitting herself against one of fandom's most colorful villainesses—Countess Draska Nishki, who openly advertises her "International Spy Ring, Inc."

BLACKHAWK—April, No. 219—On sale Feb. 8—Coming your way—the most lovable trouble-maker ever encountered by the MAGNIFICENT 7. He's Andre's cousin CISCO, from South America—and he wants to join the BLACKHAWKS!

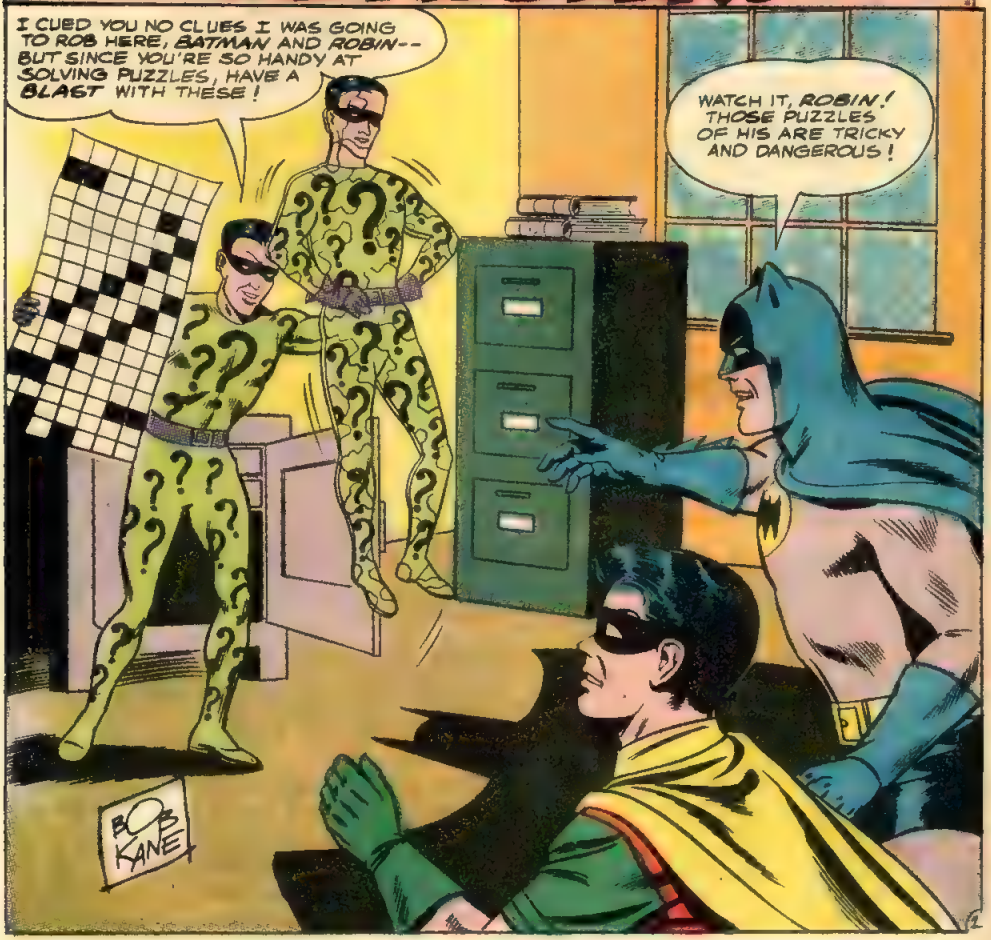
HAWKMAN—April-May, No. 13—On sale Feb. 8—A mythical land locked away from the sight of mankind—out of which emerges a legendary woman on a winged horse—seeking a champion to spirit away as her mate! And HAWKMAN is helpless when he's chosen in the "Quest of the Immortal Queen!"

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

CRIME IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF LIFE TO THAT QUESTION-COSTUMED CROOK KNOWN AS *THE RIDDLER!* YET EVERY TIME HE IS ABOUT TO COMMIT A THEFT, HE IS UNDER COMPULSION TO ALERT *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* BY MEANS OF A RIDDLE! FRUSTRATED BY HIS WEAKNESS, HE STEELS HIMSELF TO ROB WITHOUT TIPPING HIS HAND, THEREBY COMMITTING...

The RIDDLE-LESS ROBBERIES of THE RIDDLER!


I CUED YOU NO CLUES I WAS GOING TO ROB HERE, *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*-- BUT SINCE YOU'RE SO HANDY AT SOLVING PUZZLES, HAVE A *BLAST* WITH THESE!
WATCH IT, *ROBIN*! THOSE PUZZLES OF HIS ARE TRICKY AND DANGEROUS!
BOB KANE

THIS IS THE JAIL CELL WHERE THE RIDDLER--IN HIS CIVILIAN IDENTITY AS EDWARD NIGMA--HAS BEEN SPENDING HIS TIME SINCE HIS LAST CAPTURE BY BATMAN AND ROBIN *...
*EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE BATMAN #171: "REMARKABLE RUSE OF THE RIDDLER!"
BUT THE RIDDLER IS NOT IN HIS CELL, YOU SAY? TRUE ENOUGH! HE'S MADE HIS ESCAPE--AND IN TRUE RIDDLER FASHION HAS LEFT A CRYPTIC RIDDLE BEHIND HIM...
IT MAKES NO SENSE TO ME, BATMAN!
IT MAKES A LOT OF SENSE, WARDEN, WHEN YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT RIDDLE IS--WITH A SKELETON KEY! HE MUST HAVE SECRETLY MADE ONE IN THE PRISON WORKSHIP!
TO KNOW HOW I ESCAPED, SOLVE THIS RIDDLE--"HOW CAN ONE GET INTO A LOCKED CEMETERY AT NIGHT?"
WHEN YOU SUMMONED US HERE, I HAD A HUNCH WE'D FIND A RIDDLE! THE RIDDLER HAS A STRANGE CONDITIONED REFLEX! HE CAN NEVER MAKE AN IMPORTANT MOVE IN HIS LIFE WITHOUT LEAVING A RIDDLE TO EXPLAIN IT!
Hmm...HE WROTE THIS IN SHOE POLISH... PROBABLY USING THE METAL END OF HIS SHOELACE AS A WRITING INSTRUMENT!
CEMETARY AT NIGHT?"
AS BATMAN AND ROBIN LEAVE THE STATE PRISON...
OUR NEXT PROBLEM IS... WHEN'S THE RIDDLER GOING TO STRIKE--AND WHERE?
THAT'S SOMETHING WE CAN'T ANSWER, ROBIN.. NOT UNTIL HE TIPS US OFF WITH ANOTHER RIDDLE!
AND WHAT OF THE RIDDLER HIMSELF? IS HE PLANNING TO COMMIT A CRIME? BUT OF COURSE! CRIME IS IN THE VERY AIR HE BREATHES! HOWEVER--THERE IS ONE DIFFICULTY...
PAH! EVERY TIME I CONFRONT BATMAN WITH A RIDDLE--WHOSE SOLUTION REVEALS WHEN AND WHERE I'M GOING TO COMMIT A CRIME--HE ALWAYS SOLVES IT AND CAPTURES ME!
ONE THING'S SURE! I'VE GOT TO QUIT GIVING OUT RIDDLES--OR STOP COMMITTING CRIMES! BUT I JUST CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO GIVE UP ROBBERIES! SO--WHAT DO I DO?
2

A HOPEFUL SMILE CURVES HIS GRIM LIPS...

SIMPLE--RIDICULOUSLY SIMPLE! I'LL STOP GIVING RIDDLES TO MY CRIMES!

THEN GLOOM SETTLES ON HIM ONCE AGAIN...

SURE! THAT'S EASY TO SAY! BUT CAN I REALLY PREVENT MYSELF FROM HANDING OUT THOSE RIDDLES? I--I'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL I TRY! AND SO--A ROBBERY IS INDICATED!

THAT NIGHT UNDER COVER OF A MIDNIGHT BLACKNESS, HE JIMMIES A LOCK "GUARANTEED" TO BE BURGLAR-PROOF...

SOON NOW--VERY SOON--I'LL KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF! WILL I FILL MY HANDS WITH PRECIOUS GEMS? OR--; GULP! WELL, I WON'T THINK ABOUT THAT!

MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE THE HOUSE OF THAYER, HE CUTS OUT A SECTION OF GLASS FROM A DISPLAY CASE. BENEATH HIS EYES GLITTERS A SULTAN'S FORTUNE IN GEMS...

NOW COMES MY MOMENT OF TRUTH! I DIDN'T SEND ANY RIDDLE TO BATMAN--YET HERE I AM COMMITTING A ROBBERY! I'M ALMOST BEGINNING--TO HOPE!

DESPERATELY HIS HANDS STAB INTO THE OPENING OF THE DISPLAY CASE. HIS FINGERS SPREAD LIKE TALONS TO SWOOP AND STEAL! AND THEN...

I--I CAN'T TOUCH THEM! MY FINGERS HAVE STIFFENED SO I CAN'T EVEN MOVE THEM! MY SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND--WILL NOT LET ME STEAL!!

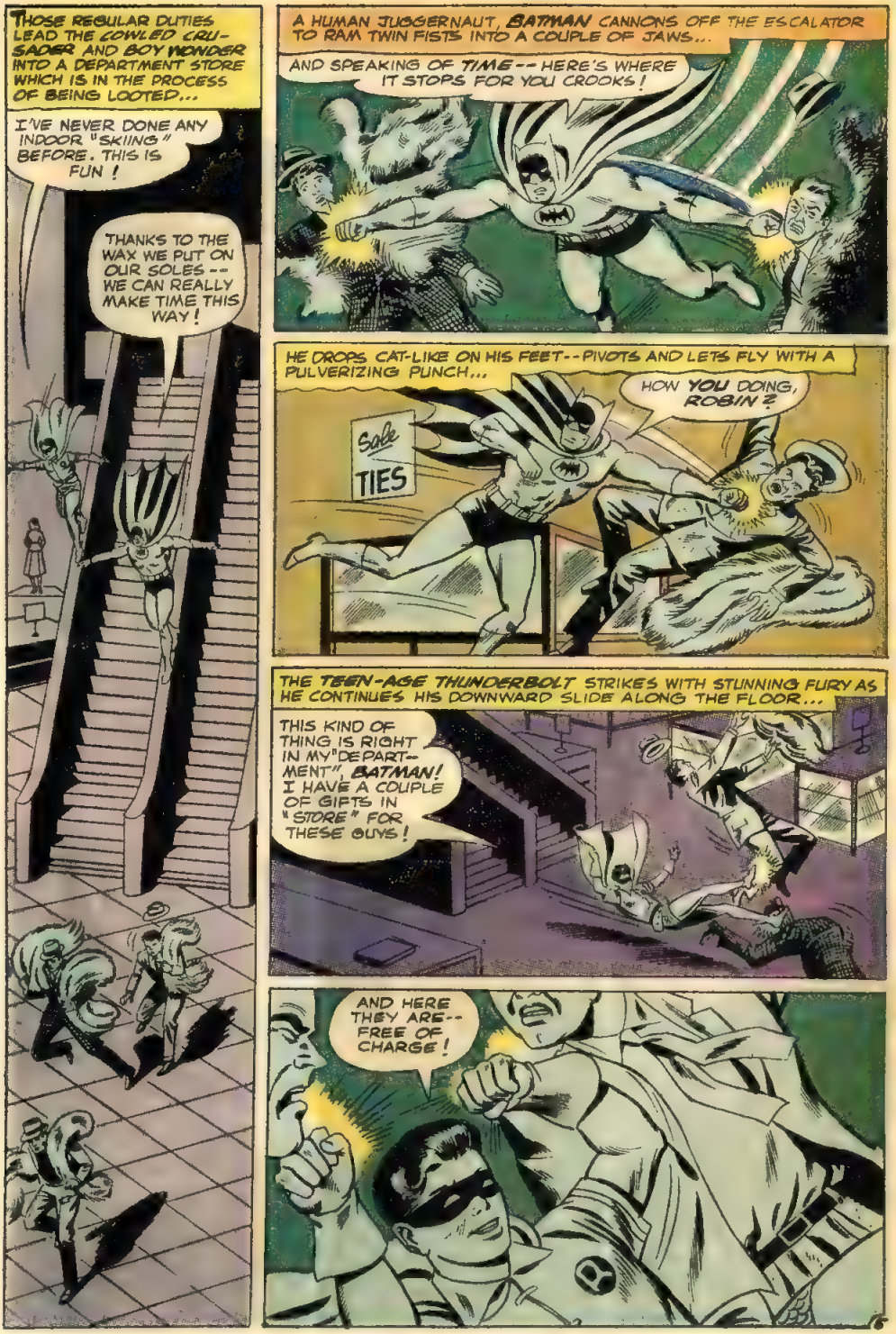
HE STAGGERS THROUGH THE JEWELRY STORE, WILD LAUGHTER THROBBING IN HIS THROAT...

HA! HA! HA! I'M STYMIED! I CAN'T COMMIT A CRIME WITHOUT ALERTING BATMAN AND ROBIN WITH A RIDDLE! WHAT A JOKE ON ME! ALL MY LIFE I'VE SENT OUT RIDDLES AND ROBBED! NOW I CAN'T DO ONE--WITHOUT THE OTHER! HA! HA! HA!

A HAUNTED LOOK TOUCHES HIS EYES! HE STARES BLINDLY WITH THE SAGGING LOOK OF A BEATEN MAN...

IF I CAN'T ROB--I'M DONE FOR! MY LIFE IS RUINED!

ABRUPTLY, HOPE SPRINGS UPWARD ONCE AGAIN! HIS FEET POUND OUT A TATTOO OF TRIUMPH AS HE RACES ACROSS THE DARK SIDEWALKS OF GOTHAM CITY...
NO--I CAN'T GIVE UP THAT EASILY! PEOPLE CAN BE MADE TO OVERCOME THEIR FAULTS AND WEAKNESSES BY UNDERSTANDING THEM AND WHAT CAUSES THEM! I'LL BE MY OWN PSYCHOANALYST! I'LL BE THE PHYSICIAN WHO HEALS HIMSELF!
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS CLOSETS HIMSELF WITH HUGE TOMES AND VOLUMES OF PSYCHIATRIC LORE -- READING -- STUDYING -- ABSORBING KNOWLEDGE...
I'LL CONDITION MYSELF TO ROB -- WITHOUT A RIDDLE! I MUST CONVINCE MY SUBCONSCIOUS MIND I CAN DO IT!
AND THEN ONE NIGHT THE RIDDLER RUNS A TEST CASE IN THE OFFICES OF THE YAB SODA COMPANY...
I BROKE IN EASILY ENOUGH-- BUT WHEN I LEAVE, WILL IT BE EMPTY-HANDED?
SWEAT BEADS HIS FOREHEAD! INDECISION AND DOUBT TWIST HIS FEATURES INTO A GROTESQUE MASK AS HE COMES TO A STOP BEFORE A CABINET...
THE YAB SODA COMPANY IS A HUNDRED YEARS OLD! THE COINS INSIDE THIS CABINET ARE ALSO A CENTURY OLD-- TO BE PUT ON EXHIBITION AS PART OF ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION! NOW THE QUESTION IS -- CAN I STEAL THEM?
HIS HANDS DART DOWNWARD-- CLOSE ON A TRAY AND LIFT IT UPWARD...
I--DID--IT! I'VE OVERCOME MY RIDDLE COMPULSION! WHAT A LOAD OFF MY MIND TO KNOW I CAN ROB WITHOUT BRINGING BATMAN DOWN ON MY BACK! I'M CURED! CURED! CURED!
BUT WHAT OF BATMAN AND ROBIN? HAVE THEY BEEN IDLE WHILE THE RIDDLER HAS BEEN BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL ON HIS SELF-INDUCED CURE?
WE JUST CAN'T WAIT AROUND FOR THE RIDDLER TO GO INTO HIS ROUTINE! WE'VE GOT OTHER WORK TO DO--OTHER CRIMINALS TO CAPTURE...


THOSE REGULAR DUTIES LEAD THE COWLED CRUSADER AND BOY WONDER INTO A DEPARTMENT STORE WHICH IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING LOOTED...
I'VE NEVER DONE ANY INDOOR "SKIING" BEFORE. THIS IS FUN!
THANKS TO THE WAX WE PUT ON OUR SOLES -- WE CAN REALLY MAKE TIME THIS WAY!
A HUMAN JUGGERNAUT, BATMAN CANNONS OFF THE ESCALATOR TO RAM TWIN FISTS INTO A COUPLE OF JAWS...
AND SPEAKING OF TIME -- HERE'S WHERE IT STOPS FOR YOU CROOKS!
HE DROPS CAT-LIKE ON HIS FEET -- PIVOTS AND LETS FLY WITH A PULVERIZING PUNCH...
HOW YOU DOING, ROBIN?
Sale
TIES
THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT STRIKES WITH STUNNING FURY AS HE CONTINUES HIS DOWNWARD SLIDE ALONG THE FLOOR...
THIS KIND OF THING IS RIGHT IN MY "DEPARTMENT", BATMAN! I HAVE A COUPLE OF GIFTS IN "STORE" FOR THESE GUYS!
AND HERE THEY ARE -- FREE OF CHARGE!

LATER, THOSE SAME DUTIES BRING THEM INTO ACTION ON A RESCUE MISSION IN A DESERTED AREA OF A CRAGGY GORGE...

YOU HAD A NASTY FALL... BUT YOU'RE SAFE NOW! WE'LL HAVE YOU IN A HOSPITAL BED WITHIN A FEW MINUTES!

YOU FELLOWS ARE TERRIFIC!

AND LATER STILL, TO HELP IN SAVING PEOPLE TRAPPED INSIDE A BLAZING APARTMENT HOUSE...

THIS IS THE LAST OF THEM, ROBIN!

WE'RE CERTAINLY HAVING OURSELVES A HOT TIME IN TOWN TONIGHT!

THEN COMES THE NIGHT WHEN A HURRIED CALL ON THE HOT-LINE BRINGS THEM TO THE YAB SODA COMPANY OFFICE AND ITS RIFLED COIN CABINET...

THE RIDDLER STOLE THE COINS! THE NIGHT WATCHMAN SPOTTED HIM AS HE RACED AWAY!

THE RIDDLER?! BUT-- HE DIDN'T TIP US OFF WITH ANY RIDDLE-- AND I'M CONVINCED HE CANNOT ROB WITHOUT FIRST CONCOCTING A RIDDLE TO GO WITH IT!

UNLESS--THE RIDDLER DID GIVE US A RIDDLE--BUT SO CLEVERLY CONCEALED WE WEREN'T EVEN AWARE OF IT! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT IT POSSIBLY COULD HAVE BEEN--

THE MASKED MANHUNTER RECALLS AN EARLIER NIGHT AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS WHEN...

THIS NINE-INCH-LONG ENVELOPE AND BLANK LETTER CAME FOR YOU, BATMAN! LOOKS LIKE A CRANK LETTER TO ME!

AND THE NIGHT AFTERWARD, WHEN A HONEYSUCKLE VINE WAS DELIVERED TO POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?

WELL, IT SMELLS KIND OF NICE! I ALWAYS DID LIKE HONEYSUCKLE!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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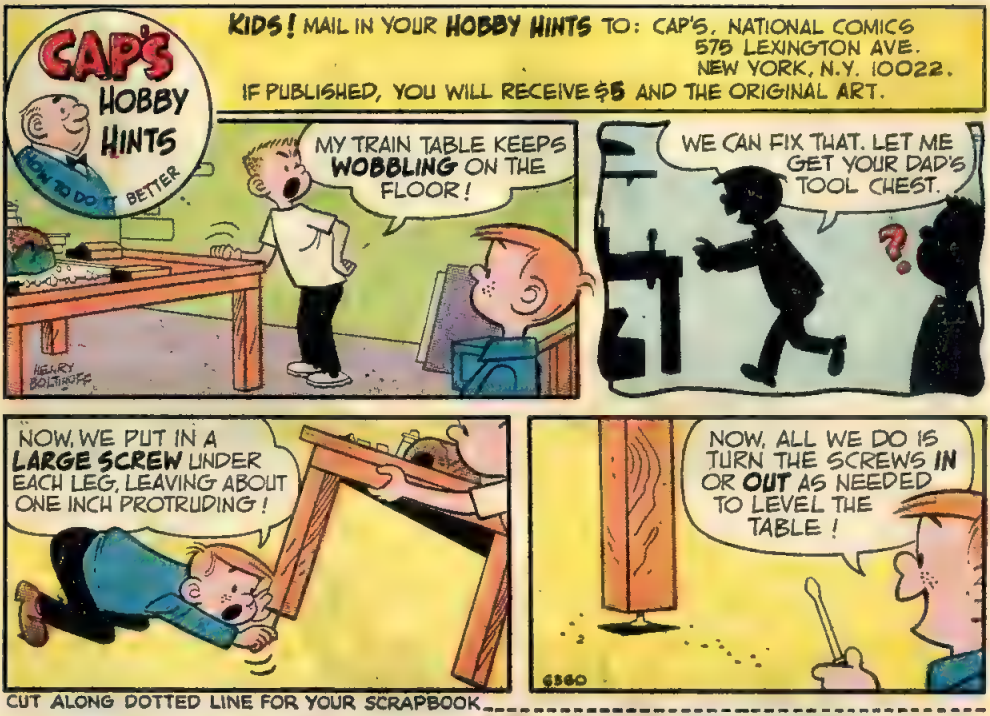
CAP'S HOBBY HINTS
HOW TO DO IT BETTER
MY TRAIN TABLE KEEPS WOBBLING ON THE FLOOR!
HENRY BOLTINOFF
WE CAN FIX THAT. LET ME GET YOUR DAD'S TOOL CHEST.
NOW, WE PUT IN A LARGE SCREW UNDER EACH LEG, LEAVING ABOUT ONE INCH PROTRUDING!
NOW, ALL WE DO IS TURN THE SCREWS IN OR OUT AS NEEDED TO LEVEL THE TABLE!
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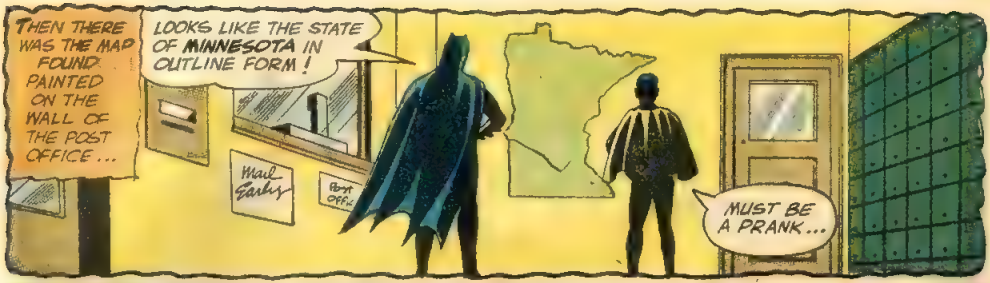
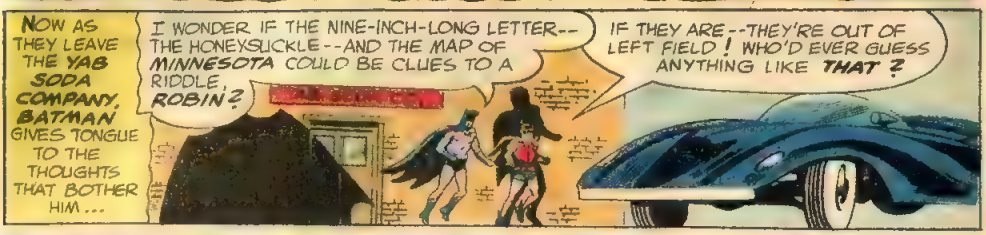
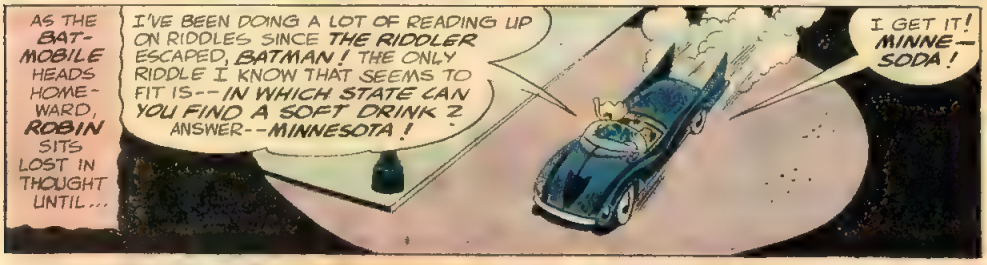
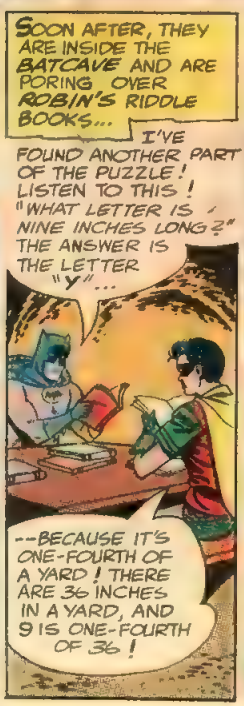

THEN THERE WAS THE MAP FOUND PAINTED ON THE WALL OF THE POST OFFICE ...
LOOKS LIKE THE STATE OF MINNESOTA IN OUTLINE FORM!
Mail Early
MUST BE A PRANK ...


NOW AS THEY LEAVE THE YAB SODA COMPANY, BATMAN GIVES TONGUE TO THE THOUGHTS THAT BOTHER HIM ...
I WONDER IF THE NINE-INCH-LONG LETTER--THE HONEYSUCKLE--AND THE MAP OF MINNESOTA COULD BE CLUES TO A RIDDLE, ROBIN?
IF THEY ARE--THEY'RE OUT OF LEFT FIELD! WHO'D EVER GUESS ANYTHING LIKE THAT?


AS THE BAT-MOBILE HEADS HOME-WARD, ROBIN SITS LOST IN THOUGHT UNTIL ...
I'VE BEEN DOING A LOT OF READING UP ON RIDDLES SINCE THE RIDDLER ESCAPED, BATMAN! THE ONLY RIDDLE I KNOW THAT SEEMS TO FIT IS--IN WHICH STATE CAN YOU FIND A SOFT DRINK? ANSWER--MINNESOTA!
I GET IT! MINNE-SODA!

ROBIN--THAT'S IT! THE MAP OF MINNESOTA IS A CLUE-POINTER TO THE SODA COMPANY THAT WAS JUST ROBBED OF THOSE COINS! THE RIDDLER GAVE US CLUES, BUT WE DIDN'T TUMBLE TO THEM! ;whew! MY FAITH IN HUMAN NATURE IS RESTORED!


SOON AFTER, THEY ARE INSIDE THE BATCAVE AND ARE PORING OVER ROBIN'S RIDDLE BOOKS...
I'VE FOUND ANOTHER PART OF THE PUZZLE! LISTEN TO THIS! "WHAT LETTER IS NINE INCHES LONG?" THE ANSWER IS THE LETTER "Y"...
--BECAUSE IT'S ONE-FOURTH OF A YARD! THERE ARE 36 INCHES IN A YARD, AND 9 IS ONE-FOURTH OF 36!

"Y" IS THE FIRST LETTER OF THE YAB SODA COMPANY! NOW WE'RE GETTING SOME-WHERE!
I THINK I HAVE THE RIDDLE ABOUT THE HONEYSUCKLE TOO! TELL ME--WHY IS THE LETTER "A" LIKE A HONEY-SUCKLE?

BECAUSE IT'S ALWAYS FOLLOWED BY A "B"! BEE! NOW WE HAVE A AND B TO GO WITH Y TO SPELL OUT YAB! HOW ABOUT THAT! THE RIDDLER WAS GIVING US CLUES ALL THE TIME!

BUT-- IS THE RIDDLER REALLY HANDING OUT ANY CLUES ? AS WE'VE ALREADY SEEN, HE HAS APPARENTLY CURED HIMSELF OF THIS "COMPULSION"...
YES, SIR--I'VE KICKED MY HABIT ! BUT ALL THE SAME, I BETTER PLAY IT SAFE AND CONTINUE MY PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENTS...
AND WHILE THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS GOES ON STUDYING (THOUGH HE OCCASIONALLY DOZES OFF OVER A PARTICULARLY "HEAVY" VOLUME), BATMAN ALERTS THE POLICEMEN AND NEWSMEN OF THE CITY TO REPORT ANY OUT-OF-THE-WAY HAPPENINGS IN GOTHAM CITY...
ANYONE SEEING SUCH A HAPPENING WILL CALL THIS SPECIAL NUMBER AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS !
A FEW DAYS LATER, AN ODD FIGURE MAKES HIS APPEARANCE...
CAN ANY OF YOU GOOD PEOPLE TELL ME WHAT NATIONALITY MY PARENTS WERE ?
THIS GUY LOOKS AND ACTS LIKE A KOOK-- BUT IT MAY BE JUST WHAT BATMAN WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT !
AT A WEDDING, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY HIMSELF IS ON HAND TO SEE...
A WEDDING PRESENT OF FIFTEEN CENTS TO THE BRIDE--AND A DIME TO THE GROOM...
THIS SEEMS ODD ENOUGH TO CALL BATMAN ABOUT !
BATMAN AND ROBIN THEMSELVES ARE ON HAND TO WITNESS...
EITHER THAT'S AN ADVERTISING GIMMICK OF SOME KIND--
--OR A RIDDLE ! WE'LL TRY AND SOLVE IT LATER !
10 +10 10
CLOSETED WITH THE POLICE COMMISSIONER SOON AFTER, THEY REVIEW THE ODD EVENTS OF THE DAY...
A MAN GIVING TWENTY-FIVE CENTS TO A BRIDE AND GROOM ! IT'S ODD-- BUT DOES IT MEAN ANYTHING ?
HERE IT IS-- ONE OF THOSE "TELLING TIME" RIDDLES ! THE TIME THAT THE MAN ACTED OUT WAS-- A QUARTER TO TWO !
WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK, ROBIN ! NOW WHAT ABOUT THE NAPOLEON CHARACTER'S QUESTION, "CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT NATIONALITY MY PARENTS WERE ?"
COURSE I CAN ! I GET IT ? CORSICAN ! LET'S GO ON !
8

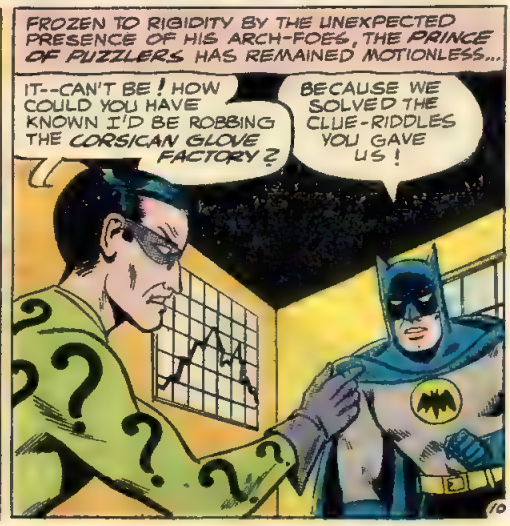
I FINALLY DOPED OUT THE ANSWER TO THIS ONE! "HOW CAN YOU ADD TEN TO TEN AND STILL HAVE TEN?" BY PUTTING ON GLOVES! TEN GLOVED FINGERS ADDED TO TEN HUMAN FINGERS STILL EQUAL TEN FINGERS! THERE'S A CORSICAN GLOVE FACTORY IN GOTHAM CITY WHICH RIDDLER INTENDS TO ROB AT QUARTER TO TWO IN THE MORNING, SINCE IT'S FAR PAST THAT TIME NOW AND NO SUCH ROBBERY WAS REPORTED THIS AFTERNOON!
10 +10 10
CAN THIS BE A FANTASTIC COINCIDENCE? SURELY THE RIDDLER IS NOT GOING AROUND HANDING OUT RIDDLES! HE'S CURED HIMSELF OF HIS QUEER QUIRK! WHO THEN IS TIPPING OFF BATMAN AND ROBIN? OR--CAN IT BE THAT THE DUO IS SOLVING RIDDLES--WHERE THERE ARE NO RIDDLES??
???
THE MOMENT OF TRUTH APPROACHES! SOON NOW BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL KNOW WHETHER THEY ARE RIGHT IN THEIR DEDUCTIONS--OR THE VICTIMS OF A MONSTROUS PRANK BY FATE! IT IS ONE-THIRTY IN THE MORNING AT THE CORSICAN GLOVE FACTORY, WHERE THE CRIME-BUSTING COUPLE WAITS...
WILL THE RIDDLER COME? OR IS HE LEADING US ASTRAY?
7
THE MINUTES PASS! AT A QUARTER-TO-TWO, A DOOR HINGE CREAKS--AND SHADOWY FIGURES STEAL INTO THE GLOVE COMPANY OFFICE...
I HAVE A GANG TO SIDE ME NOW! SINCE I NO LONGER GIVE OUT RIDDLES TO ALERT BATMAN, EVERYBODY WANTS TO GET IN ON THE ACT!
THE LIGHTS SNAP ON! AND--
HIT 'EM HARD, ROBIN!
CLICK!
NO! NO! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

STUNG TO DESPERATE ACTION BY THE SURPRISE APPEARANCE OF THE GOTHAM GANG-BUSTERS, TWO MOBSTERS FLING FISTS AT BATMAN...
WE GOTTA KNOCK HIM OUT--
SOK!
--BEFORE HE KNOCKS US SILLY!

BUT THE COWLED CRUSADER IS NOT KNOWN AS THE "KNOCK-OUT KING" FOR NOTHING! HE DROPS BEFORE THOSE PUNCHES, ROLLING WITH THEIR FURY...
NOW I HAVE THEM WHERE I WANT THEM!

ON YOUR WAY, FELLAS!

SMAK
SHORT TRIP, WASN'T IT?


FROZEN TO RIGIDITY BY THE UNEXPECTED PRESENCE OF HIS ARCH-FOES, THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS HAS REMAINED MOTIONLESS...
IT--CAN'T BE! HOW COULD YOU HAVE KNOWN I'D BE ROBBING THE CORSICAN GLOVE FACTORY?
BECAUSE WE SOLVED THE CLUE-RIDDLES YOU GAVE US!

FROM HIS TRICKY UNIFORM THE RIDDLER WHIPS OUT A HANDFUL OF JIGSAW PUZZLE PIECES AND...
YOU GUYS HAVE FLIPPED--I CUED YOU NO CLUES! BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE SO HANDY AT SOLVING PUZZLES, HAVE A BLAST PUTTING THIS JIGSAW TOGETHER!
AS THE CUT-OUTS HIT HIM, BATMAN IS BATTERED BY EXPLOSIVE BLASTS...
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
HAVING KAYOED HIS FOE, ROBIN CHARGES AT THE RIDDLER--ONLY TO BE INTERCEPTED BY A LARGE-SIZED CROSSWORD PUZZLE...
MMPPFFF! GLUPP!!
NOW, NOW, ROBIN--NO CROSS WORDS, PLEASE!
AS THAT WHIRLING CLOTH PUZZLE WRAPS AND TWISTS TIGHTLY ABOUT HIM, THE BOY WONDER CHANGES HIS ANGLE OF FALL, DELIBERATELY THROWING HIMSELF INTO BATMAN...
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
THE RIDDLER'S CROSSING US UP WITH HIS PERILOUS PUZZLES--BUT I'LL MATCH HIM TRICK FOR TRICK!
POWERED BY ROBIN'S SIDE-SWIPE, THE COWLED CRUSADER SLAMS THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS INTO THE VERY SAFE HE INTENDED TO ROB...
THAT WILL KEEP HIM KNOCKED OUT LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE US A CHANCE TO OVERCOME HIS PUZZLES!
WHEN THE MASKED MANHUNTERS RECOVER...
NOW WHAT'S THIS NONSENSE ABOUT NOT GIVING OUT ANY RIDDLE CLUES? HOW DO YOU THINK WE GOT HERE?
I--I CAN'T IMAGINE! ALL I KNOW IS I DIDN'T GIVE YOU ANY RIDDLES! I'VE TRAINED MYSELF NOT TO!

BUT WHEN BATMAN EXPLAINS THE DEDUCTIVE TRAIL WHICH LED TO THE CORSICAN GLOVE FACTORY...
THOSE CAT NAPS I THOUGHT I TOOK WHILE STUDYING! MY SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND FORCED ME TO DISGUISE MYSELF AND ACT OUT THESE RIDDLES! I DIDN'T BREAK MY COMPULSION AFTER ALL!
WHEN THE RIDDLER AND HIS GANG HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
HA! HA! AND ALL THE TIME YOU WERE PROBABLY CONGRATULATING YOURSELF THAT YOU WERE ENGAGED IN THE LEAST DANGEROUS ROBBERY OF ALL--A "SAFE" ROBBERY!
STEALING MY WISE-CRACKING THUNDER, oh? WELL--I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDDLE YOU CAN'T ANSWER, ROBIN MY BOY! WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND RED ALL OVER?
ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU HIT ME WITH THAT RIDDLE IN OUR LAST CASE! THE ANSWER IS A NEWSPAPER!
YOU DO ME AN INJUSTICE! WHEN I ASK A RIDDLE A SECOND TIME, I HAVE ANOTHER ANSWER! AND MY NEW ANSWER TO WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND RED ALL OVER IS--AN EMBARRASSED ZEBRA!
ALONE IN THE CELL TO WHICH HE HAS BEEN RETURNED, THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS REALIZES THE FUTILITY OF HIS FAILURE...
I GUESS I MUST RESIGN MYSELF TO THE FACT THAT I'LL ALWAYS BE COMPELLED TO GIVE RIDDLES AS CLUES TO WHERE AND WHEN I ROB!! SIGH! SO IN THE FUTURE I'LL JUST HAVE TO INVENT NEWER AND EVEN CLEVERER WAYS TO OUT-RIDDLE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
The End
12

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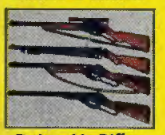
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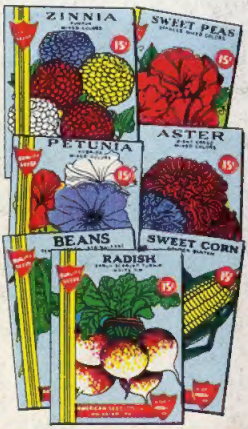

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